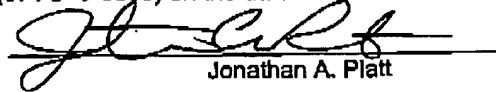


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached, enclosed, or following) is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (571-273-8300) on the date shown below.

Date: July 11, 2005
Jonathan A. Platt

Attorney Docket No. ERICP0326USB

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Applicants: Gregel et al.

Serial No.: 10/697,509

Filed: October 30, 2003

Title: REINFORCING BAR CONNECTION AND METHOD

Examiner: James R. Brittain

Art Unit: 3677

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JUNE 10, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement in the Action, Applicants elect without traverse Invention I, claims 1-39.

In response to the election of species requirement in the Action, Applicants elect Group 5, the embodiment shown in Figs. 29-32. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 18, and 26-39 are believed to read on the elected species. Of these, claims 1-4, 8, 18, and 31-39 are believed to be generic to all the species identified in the Action.

It is requested that all of the claims remain in the application at this time.

10/697,509ERICP0326USB

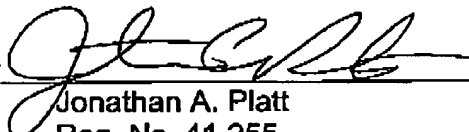
Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed due with the filing of this paper. In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988 (Charge No. ERICP326USB).

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

By


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